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would be no possibility, and therefore no temptation, for any government to lay or pull wires, with a view of giving its citizens preferential advantages." (3) Native representation could be, and should be, provided for on the commission. Thus native interests would be presented authoritatively, and the confidence of the native population would be secured from the start. (4) A joint international commission would obviate the necessity for the maintenance of large national armies. (5) The goal of the commission would be the rapid development of the peoples of the various countries to the point where they could take over their own government; this would not be the goal of a mandatory power. (6) There would thus be removed two contingencies—the despatching overseas of a large army and the possibility of political complications—which at present prevent America from lending to the Eastern countries the helping hand which she would so gladly lend a people in distress.

*The Eastern Question and Its Solution* is a great book, written with a breadth of vision, a tolerance of spirit, and an honesty of purpose worthy of its scholarly author. It is a work which completely eclipses its predecessor *The War and the Bagdad Railway*. Professor Jastrow has made a real contribution to the discussion of the knotty problem of the Near East. Will the "practical" statesmen lend their ears?

EDWARD M. EARLE,  
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*A Brief History of the Great War.* By CARLTON J. H. HAYES.  
461 pages. New York. Macmillan, 1920.

This history of the world war, designed for the general reader and for students, is almost perfectly adapted to its purpose. The magnitude, complication, deep-seated causes, intricate relations and numerous and far-reaching results of the struggle gave opportunity for confused and unclear treatment. Yet the author has produced a work notable for good proportion and balance, for coherence and lucidity, for a just measure of relative values and for a penetrating perception of the truth. Though his theme might awaken prejudice, stir the spirit of an advocate, or kindle passion, he writes with coolness and detachment, without partisanship or denunciation in the spirit of a true and scientific historian whose sole aim is to tell the truth concerning his subject.

The only exception to this scholarly attitude is perhaps a too great insistence on the evils which have attended the existence of

wholly sovereign and independent states, unrestrained in their action by any international organization or superior authority to settle disputes and regulate world interests. Combined with this is a vigorous presentation of the evils of nationalism which along with imperialism and militarism are represented as re-enforcing the anarchy of international politics and international economics. The author is an ardent champion of an international organization of some kind which shall make feasible in the future the peaceful solution of international controversies.

In this condition of international anarchy he finds the general and fundamental cause of the war, while the action of Germany, as indicated in the following extract was the immediate cause: ". . . . the most perfect exemplar of nationalism, imperialism, and militarism, and therefore the most viciously anarchic in international relations, was Germany. It was Germany which precipitated the Great War," p. 7.

In his correct and luminous analysis of the German spirit the author formulates a definition of militarism:

"Militarism is not merely the possession of large armed forces; it involves also the exaltation of such armed forces to the chief place in the state, the subordination to them of the civil authorities, the reliance upon them in every dispute," p. 7. That his interpretation of Germany's part in causing the war is not without sympathy and understanding for her international position and for her needs is shown, among other ways, by his excellent account of the causes of German militarism.

To write military history in a manner suitable for the use of students is difficult; but the author, by appropriate omissions and skillful compression, has performed this task with marked success. Where the narration, or even summary, of multitudinous events would confuse and weary the student and obscure essentials, he has so presented the major plans of strategy, the broad and general military conceptions, that the reader can grasp the fundamentals of the great campaigns and perceive their significance as a whole. They do not appear as aggregates composed of a baffling number of isolated and incoherent events, but as compact units, each having a definite and intelligible purpose and clear cut, organic relations to those which precede, follow or occur at distant points. In spite of the numerous, widely separated and diverse theatres of war, the reader is thus enabled by the author's skillful coördination to comprehend the complex military history of the great conflict.

While the great military movements are thus depicted with sweeping but accurate strokes, those details concerning supply, equipment and tactics, which are indispensable to a living understanding of the struggle, are presented in adequate number and with judicious selection.

The political history of the war is treated with equal success. The internal conditions and domestic problems of the belligerents, their aims and aspirations, their relations to each other, the causes for their participation in the war, the bearing of all these factors on the military events, are presented with clearness, force and breadth of view. A fine example of the author's success in treating a question which involves an intricate intermingling of political, economic, moral and military considerations, with due attention to vital detail and yet a vivid presentation of the main issue, is his discussion of the attack on the Dardanelles. Unlike some historians of the war, he has a just appreciation of the causes for Italy's participation, not concealing either her selfish considerations, or ignoring her higher aims and motives.

The great and dominant issue of the war, as interpreted by the author, is stated in the following paragraph: "As the great war progressed, its stakes were becoming clearer. On the one hand were isolation, international anarchy, and domination of the world by a militaristic and autocratic Great Power: on the other hand were coöperation, a league of free nations, and a partnership among democratic and peace-loving governments in assuming the responsibilities as well as the profits of world management. The two most fateful factors in clarifying the stakes of the Great War early in 1917 were the Russian Revolution and the intervention of the United States," p. 203.

The sources from which the author has drawn his information appear to be of the best. He has used documentary material to some degree and in many cases the evidence of experienced and thoroughly competent observers. The result is that he has arrived at the truth concerning a large number of subjects. His mastery of the facts, combined with a large vocabulary and smooth diction, have made his style easy and forceful.

The book contains ten maps in color, thirty-nine sketch maps, and three appendices; the first presenting the Covenant of the League of Nations, the names of the original members of the League, and of those countries asked to join; the second gives the American reservations to the Treaty of Versailles; the third,

the Agreement between the United States and France. Following the appendices is a select and classified bibliography.

EARL E. SPERRY,  
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*A Short History of the Italian People from the Barbarian Invasions to the Attainment of Unity.* By JANET PENROSE TREVELYAN.

One volume, 580 pages. New York and London, G. P. Putnam and Sons.

The Italian poet and patriot Ugo Foscolo in his inaugural lecture on the origin and duty of literature, delivered in 1809 at the University of Pavia, addressed his hearers as follows in regard to the history of their native land: "Italians, I exhort you to study the history of your country, because no other people than that of Italy can show more calamities to pity, more mistakes to avoid, more virtues to make you respected, greater souls more worthy to be liberated from oblivion."

The history of the Italian people shows, indeed, all of this and, if it is of primary importance to the Italians, foreigners also may find much to learn and much to profit by studying the various events that agitated the Italian people during the centuries that followed the fall of the Roman Empire. The history of Italy offers, however, incomparably more difficulties to the student than that of other European nations, for the peninsula was for centuries divided, and its various parts suffered each one in its turn, and often at the same time, from foreign invasions and internal dissensions. That necessitates the examination of parallel events having no apparent connection between them in the various states and dominions of Italy, and it requires also a study of European conditions as a whole, especially during the time in which Italy, or some part of Italy, was made to be the pawn in the great struggle for supremacy among the great nations of continental Europe.

For all these reasons we must welcome this new contribution to a subject so replete with interest, especially because Mrs. Trevelyan—while not claiming any attempt at original research or to have made new discoveries—has produced a book written in clear style, well balanced in all its parts and eminently readable. Starting with the last years of the Roman Empire and coming down to the completion of Italian Unity in 1870, it has also an epilogue in which the events of the later years are narrated with sufficient detail up to the entrance of Italy in the European War.